(b) Alarm chain in 383 Up MOKAMEH-ARRAH Shuttle train has been blanked off due to misuse by miscreants.

Purchase of Forest Produce by TRIFED

572. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) which minor forest produces would be purchased by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation to remove exploitation of the tribals by middlemen during the current financial year;

(b) what is the amount likely to be spent on these purchases; and

(c) on what basis the TRIFED choose the products for price support and market intervention?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) During the current financial year, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) has planned to undertake procurement of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) listed in the statement. (*See* below) This will be done with the help of the State Tribal Development Corporations & Forest Development Corporations. The objective is to pay remunerative prices to the Tribals and remove exploitation of the tribals by middlemen. Apart from these, TRIFED is also geared to undertake procurement of other MFP items either identified by TRIFED on its own or by the State Level Tribal Federations based on the market conditions and economic viabilities.

(b) TRIFED has tentatively planned to invest an amount of Rs. 45.95 crores on procurement of these MFPs from all over India.

(c) TRIFED procured different coarse grain items under the Price Support Scheme of Government of India during 1989-90. There is no Price Support Scheme yet for items of MFD. TRIFED has however, adopted a policy of uniform price fixation for important MFP items. For these items, TRIFED either directly or through the State Federations, undertakes market intervention operations, in case the prices are below the uniform purchase price.

Statement

MFP—Items

1. Gum Karaya
2. Tamarind
3. Sal Seed
4. Sal DOC
5. Mahuwa Seed
6. Mahuwa Flower
7. *Karanj Seed*
8. Kusum Seed
9. Tendu Leaves
10. Myrobalans
11. Cocoons
12. Stick Lac
13. Medicinal Herbs
14. Chironjee
15. Dry Amla
16. Cleaning Nuts
17. Shikakai
18. Honey
19. Soap Nut
20. Ratanjot
21. Bamboo Ply
22. Cashew Nuts (Raw).

Allotment of funds for tribal sub-plan and special component plan

573. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, the fund allotted for Tribal Sub-plan and special component plan for Scheduled Castes were not fully and properly utilised by various State Governments and Union Territories;

(b if so, what new initiatives have been taken to ensure that there is complete and proper utilisation of funds allotted for the above two projects in future; and

(c) whether Government are aware of diversion of these funds by the State Governments for schemes and projects meant for the development and welfare of Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) No such diversion has come to notice.

Conferring of constitutional powers to the Commission for SC & ST

574. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to confer certain additional constitutional powers to the Commission for *Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe*; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government are examining the whole position with a view to make the National Commission more effective.

Economic assistance to families of Scheduled Tribes

575. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Seventh Five Year Plan 1100589 Scheduled Tribes families which were given economic assistance by November, 1989 under various sub-plan schemes, if so, what was the actual number that arose above the poverty line; and

(b) what was the average assistance given to each of these families in terms of rupees and was it adequate to bring the family above the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) During the Seventh Five Year Plan upto November 1989, 11,00,589 Scheduled Tribe families were economically assisted in Madhya Pradesh. However, the actual number of families emongst them which rose above the poverty line is not available.

(b) It is estimated that the per capita average of the total assistance has been of the order of Rs. 3700. This amount is not adequate, considering that the Working Group on Development of the Scheduled Tribes during the Seventh Five Year Plan had assessed the average requirement per family to be Rs. 10,000.

Under utilisation of funds meant for rehabilitation of bonded labour

576. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, the financial allocation meant for the rehabilitation of 'Bonded Labour' was not fully and properly utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the number of bonded labour is large and the process of their rehabilitation had been slow; and

(d) whether Government are taking any new initiatives to improve the overall position in this context?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As against Plan Allocation of Rs. 15 crores, an amount of about Rs. 18 crores has been disbursed to the various State Governments as Central share under the Cen-